


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	22-556	Meeting:	December 12, 2022
	Agenda Item:	70B	Roll Call:	22-1955
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of updated City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Rules.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of proposed changes to Parks and Recreation Rules, including these substantive changes which incorporate new rules that reflect the advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department since the adoption of this document in 2019 and clarify intent of select, existing rules:

- In General: Modifications to enhance formality of the language used and refine overall formatting within several Sections
- Section III.1.d: Addition of prohibiting driving and/or parking on the grass
- Section VI.1: Additions strengthen the consequences of violating aquatic facility rules and the authority of specific staff
- Section VIII.3: Additions to clarify fishing limitations at Gray's Lake Park
- Section IX.1: Additions to strengthen protection of the Western Gateway Park irrigation system, turf and vegetation
- Section X.1.b: Extends the Birdland Marina moorage season
- Section X.6.x: Addition to strengthen the consequences of violating marina berth subletting or leasing prohibitions
- Section XVI.2 and 3: Additions to expand weight room and cardio area rules and etiquette
- Section XXI: Adds Boulderling Rules to accommodate a new feature within the system

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Parks and Recreation Rules is a separate, yet complimentary, document to Chapter 74 of the Des Moines Municipal Code, which is dedicated to the organization and management of the City parks and recreation facilities and outlines the role of the Parks and Recreation Board, the authority of the Parks and Recreation Department director, operation of City parks and recreation facilities and the fees for use of facilities and programs.
- In addition to the Municipal Code, rules are needed for specific City parks and recreation facilities to regulate use. Many of these rules are not included in the City's Municipal Code, but in order to be enforceable, all rules must be approved by the City Council.

- The rules, when combined with the Municipal Code, govern the use of the City’s parks and recreation facilities. Wherever possible, rules do not duplicate anything that is addressed in the Municipal Code.
- On October 22, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Board, via Resolution No. 19-080, approved for the first time the Parks and Recreation Rules as assembled into one (1) comprehensive document.
- This is the second update to the rules document and incorporates changes that reflect advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department. These are described in succinct detail below. Additional minor changes are proposed to improve formatting, consistency and clarity, but do not modify the meaning of the existing rules language.
- Elected and appointed leaders should use this communication as a guide to the changes, but still read in detail the proposed modifications shown with “track changes” on in the copy of the Parks and Recreation Rules provided in their meeting packet. Substantive changes include:
 - *In General*: Proposed changes enhance the formality of the language used and refine overall formatting within several Sections. These changes are in line with the continuous comprehensive improvement of this document over time.
 - *Section III.1.d*: Proposed addition strengthens the ability of park and facility users to understand limits of where most motorized vehicles and equipment are allowed and of the Parks and Recreation Director or his or her designee to enforce penalties for damage caused by renters and permit holders who violate this rule. This rule is included in the general applicability section because it applies to all facilities.
 - *Section VI.1*: Proposed additions strengthen the consequences of violating pool and aquatic center rules and the authority of specific staff to implement and enforce penalties for such violations. These rule changes are reflective of needs based on the past aquatics season.
 - *Section VIII.3*: Proposed additions clarify that at Gray’s Lake Park fishing is not allowed from rental watercraft and that no ice fishing is permitted.
 - *Section IX.1*: Proposed additions strengthen the protection of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park and the Western Gateway Park irrigation system, turf and vegetation. Expanding on these rules is reflective of needs based on the past several festival seasons.
 - *Section X.1.b*: Proposed modification extends the Birdland Marina moorage season based on input gathered via a standardized questionnaire delivered to all current berth renters by Parks and Recreation staff and reflects the preference of the majority of respondents.
 - *Section X.6.x*: Proposed addition strengthens the consequences of violating the subletting or leasing prohibitions. This addition is reflective of needs based on the past Birdland Marina moorage seasons.
 - *Section XVI.2 and 3*: Proposed additions expand the Community Recreation Centers weight room and cardio area rules and etiquette. These additions are standard practice for similar facilities and are reflective of needs based on staff and patron input.

- *Section XXI*: Proposed new section adds Bouldering Rules to this document for the first time and is necessary to accommodate the introduction of this new activity type and feature. Bouldering will first be introduced to our system at Cohen Park, currently anticipated to be available in fall 2023. These rules were vetted with bouldering experts, risk management and others.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 6, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-1833](#)

Action: [Rules](#) for facilities and programs operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. ([Council Communication No. 21-525](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: November 22, 2022

Resolution Number: 22-082

Action: Motion by Davis to accept the proposed Parks and Recreation Rules. Second by Bollard. Motion carried.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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